

Attorney Docket No.: **DC-0199**  
Inventors: **Cheung et al.**  
Serial No.: **10/043,539**  
Filing Date: **January 11, 2002**  
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**Listing of Claims:**

The following listing of claims shall replace all previous versions:

Claims 1-27 (canceled).

Claim 28 (new): A method of screening for lead compounds which inhibit the expression of virulence determinants in *Staphylococcus* comprising:

obtaining one or more Staphylococcal accessory regulatory R (SarR) analogs;

contacting said one or more analogs of SarR with a Staphylococcal accessory regulatory A (SarA) protein; and

determining whether said one or more analogs form a heterodimer with the SarA protein wherein the formation of a heterodimer is indicative of a lead compound which inhibits the expression of virulence determinants in *Staphylococcus*.

Claim 29 (new): A method of screening for lead compounds which inhibit the expression virulence determinants in *Staphylococcus* comprising:

obtaining one or more Staphylococcal accessory regulatory R (SarR) analogs;

contacting said one or more analogs of SarR with a Staphylococcal accessory regulatory A (SarA) promoter or fragment thereof; and

determining whether said one or more analogs bind the SarA promoter or fragment thereof wherein the binding of the SarR analog to the SarA promoter or fragment thereof is indicative of

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a lead compound which inhibits the expression of virulence determinants in *Staphylococcus*.

Claim 30 (new): A compound identified by the screening method of claim 28 or 29.

Claim 31 (new): A compound identified by the screening method of claim 28 or 29, wherein said compound inhibits the expression of sarA.